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## **PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH ON WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

The Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Australia's Workplace Relations Framework is an important first step on the path of workplace relations reform, but more needs to be done, according to Brett Hogan, Director of Energy and Innovation Policy at free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

"While the Productivity Commission Report is a good start which recognises that changes need to be made, it does not go far enough," says Mr Hogan.

"The recommendation to phase out Sunday penalty rates for retail and hospitality workers is a welcome acknowledgement that for many employers penalty rates are no longer affordable. However, exempting state emergency workers from this change ensures that public sector workplace reform will stay in the too-hard basket."

"Too many state governments are addicted to double-digit pay rises for public sector workers and wage costs are one of the main drivers of requests to increase the GST."

"In relation to the Fair Work Commission, while this report recognises the flaws in its structure and operation, its proposed solution will not fix the problem."

"The current Fair Work Commission can't decide if it is a court, a tribunal, a conciliation service, a regulator, a standard setter, or a retirement home for trade unionists."

"Involving even more governments in the appointment process and creating a new Minimum Standards Division will make navigating the Commission even more difficult."

"Australian policymakers need to acknowledge the diversity of modern employment practices. The Abbott Government must take a workplace relations reform plan to next year's Federal Election that commits to significant change," says Mr Hogan.

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